

dependent form. Accordingly, we need only confine the following remarks to claim 32.

In discussing claim 32, reference will be had to Fig. 5 which shows the cassette 24 mounted to the post 82 in the bay 18. The ink ribbon supply reel 46 holds a supply of ink ribbon 44. At the bottom 97 of the ink ribbon supply reel 46 there is provided an adhesive disc 96. The disc 96 has a plurality of reflective bands extending radially thereon interspersed with non-reflective regions. A window 100 is provided in the lower surface 102 of the cassette 24. A sensing arrangement 92 is positioned below the window 100 and detects the reflective bands on the disc 96. Rotation of the ink ribbon supply spool 46 and the disc 86 can be detected as the light from a light source of the sensing arrangement 92 impinges alternately on the reflective and non-reflective regions of the disc 96. See page 22, lines 7-32 of the specification.

Claim 32 defines a cassette with the characteristics discussed above. This discussion, then, provides one example of the invention as defined in claim 32. Claim 32 defines a cassette with a reel holding a supply of ink ribbon (for example reel 46). The reel has a plurality of markings thereon (for example the plurality of reflective bands on the disc 96). The markings are detected by detecting means (for example sensing arrangement 92). An the detection relates information regarding the rotation of the reel.

Where is any of this structure in Suzuki et al '487? It is respectfully submitted that *none* of this structure is to be found, or suggested in Suzuki et al '487.

The examiner states that Suzuki et al '487 discloses "a plurality of markings (surface of 32)." Surface 32 is a surface of the ink ribbon. It is not a marking and certainly not a marking on the housing of the cassette. This disclosure does not even amount to a mark *applied* to the tape but only to a characteristic of the tape. This is not the same thing. Also, the markings

(reflective bands) on the disc 96 relate to information relative to the rotation of the reel. The so-called "markings" (surface 32) of Suzuki et al '487 says nothing at all about the rotation of the reel in the cassette. Suzuki et al '487 is seriously deficient when considered under 35 USC 102, which, as is well established, requires that a single reference disclose every positively recited structural limitation claimed. Suzuki et al '487 clearly does not meet this criteria.

The examiner has also referred to detecting means 302 ( ribbon end sensor) of Suzuki et al '487. As noted in a previous Response, this ribbon end sensor detects the end of the ink ribbon, but is not disclosed as being capable of detecting any markings thereon. Also, it does not detect information relating to rotation of the reel, but merely the ends of the ink ribbon and/or the presence of the ink ribbon

The Suzuki et al '487 patent discloses a printer for printing on sheet paper (not a tape printing apparatus) whereby the print head is carried on a carriage supported on a guide shaft. In the apparatus disclosed in the '487 patent the ink ribbon is held stationary during printing while the carriage moves from left to right. The printer of the '487 patent is capable of printing via a thermal ink ribbon or directly onto thermally sensitive paper without the ribbon. The printing method used by the printer is dependent on whether or not an ink ribbon is present. The detecting means disclosed in the '487 patent is provided by an optical sensor which detects the presence or absence of the ink ribbon, as is disclosed on page 7, lines 54-63. The control means is provided by a CPU which establishes the mode of printing in dependence on the signal received from the optical sensor, and this feature is disclosed on page 7, lines 71-84.

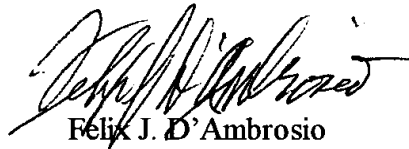
The Suzuki et al '487 patent does not provide detecting means to detect a characteristic indicative of movement in order to determine reel rotation. Furthermore, the

Suzuki et al '487 patent does not disclose, as noted above, a tape printing apparatus, but a printer for printing on sheet paper whereby the print head is carried on a carriage supported on a guide shaft.

The examiner is again referred to *In re Bond*, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). What an element does also contributes to its identity for purposes of 35 USC 102.

In view of the foregoing, the examiner is urged to again reconsider the rejection of claims 32-35 over Suzuki et al '487 and to find claims 32-35 also allowed.

Respectfully submitted



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